

REMARKS

The Office examined claims 1-20 and rejected all of the claims except for claims 8 and 15 (merely objecting to those claims). With this paper, claim 8 is cancelled, others of the claims are amended, and two new claims are added to the application. Thus, claims 1-7 and 9-22 are pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

At page 2 of the Office action, various of the claims are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. With this paper, the claims are changed in a way believed to obviate the grounds for the rejections. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable subject matter

At page 5 of the Office action, claims 8 and 15 are said to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Of the claims examined, apparatus claim 1 and method claim 17 are independent.

With this paper, claim 1 is changed to incorporate the limitations of claim 8, i.e. that the shaft have a radial bearing surface and also a thrust bearing surface, and claim 10 is also made to incorporate the limitations of claim 8. Claim 17 is similarly changed. Thus, claims 1-7 and 9-20 are believed allowable.

New claims

Also with this paper, new independent claims 21 and 22 are added to the application. Claim 21 is the same as objected-to claim 15 changed to include the limitations of all claims from which it depends. Claim 22 is the same as original claim 17 changed to incorporate the limitations of objected-to-claim 15. Thus, claims 21 and 22 are both also believed allowable.

Conclusion

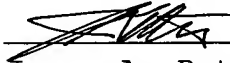
All of the claims now in the application are believed in condition for allowance, and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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